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FOR THE METRIC SYSTEM The following is the text of a bill which has recently been introduced by Representative Littauer to fix the standard of weights and measures in the United States by the adoption of the metric system:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

That from and after the first of July, nineteen hundred and eight, all of the Departments of the Government of the United States, in the transaction of business requiring the use of weight and measurement, shall employ and use the weights and measures of the metric system.

The committee of publicity of the American Metrological Society, of which Professor Simon Newcomb is chairman, has sent out a circular letter in support of the bill. Some quotations follow:

"Notwithstanding some recent misleading statements to the contrary, made by opponents of the bill, the Metric System during the past thirty years has made the most substantial and important progress of its history. By the establishment of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures in 1872, the Metric System became in the fullest sense an International System. Its subsequent introduction into actual and general use in Germany and the neighboring countries have given it the character of a real International System, and secured for it a commanding position which neither the British nor any other system ever possessed, and which make it as near a permanent institution as any human arrangement can be. At the same time it is among English speaking people themselves, the medium in which all scientific research is carried on, the system in which all electrical measurements are made, and in which all higher education is given, for which reason thousands of our young people are already acquainted with it.

Under present conditions the British system is an ugly excrescence on the world's literature and practical arts which the general welfare requires we should abolish as speedily as possible. Already the conflict of two systems is a serious obstacle to international trade and a hindrance to international coöperation in every direction. The sentiment in favor of the Metric System is so far advanced in the British Empire that it is a question whether we will not be anticipated in its adoption. The expressions of Boards of Trade, educational bodies, and Colonial Governments leave no doubt but that England would immediately follow us in the adoption of the Metric System should we be fortunate enough to first take the step.

For these reasons, among others, we earnestly request you to obtain the largest possible expression of opinion favorable to the introduction of the system into all Government work by Act of Congress."

ERRATA.

Page 27, line 11 from bottom, for 15 read 13.

Page 18, lines 5 and 6 from bottom. The result of substituting in Lagrange's formula should read,

$$v = \frac{1}{x} \left[1 + \frac{\log_e x}{x} + \frac{3}{2!} \left(\frac{\log_e x}{x} \right)^2 + \dots + \frac{n^{n-2}}{(n-1)!} \left(\frac{\log_e x}{x} \right)^{n-1} + \dots \right]$$